

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 are currently amended in the present amendment, and claims 26-30 are added.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for being a single means claim. Claim 24 is amended for reasons more fully set forth below. While the Applicants do not admit that claim 24 as filed did actually constitute a single means claim, the effect of those amendments is to make it clear that claim 24, as presently amended is not a claim that consists of nothing more than a single means clause.

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,937 to Montville et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Montville reference discloses a subscription-based messaging system. Such system is accessed from a subscriber's own computer or from a computer that can access the Internet and the ISP that serves as the subscription provider. It is a proprietary email service accessible by subscribers. In contrast, the present invention is a software utility program which extends and enhances the features of existing application programs that are installed on computers or available over the Internet. These application programs may include, but are not limited to, file management applications such as Microsoft Windows Explorer, email applications such as Microsoft Outlook, work group systems such as Lotus Notes, or web browser programs such as Microsoft Internet Explorer. The present invention is not an email system or email program. It

is designed to integrate into existing email programs and other application programs such as web browsers, file managers, other libraries and certificate managers. These existing applications serve as a host for the present invention. Once integrated with the present invention, these host applications provide the functions of archive management and manipulation which they otherwise could not provide without the present invention.

Users of the present invention are not required to subscribe to an email service, as is true with the Montville reference, but are capable of sharing email attachments, files and folders, i.e. archives, using programs from various sources installed on their machines. Central to the function of the present invention is the use of the .ZIP format as a common container for shared data. The present invention facilitates the use of files, archives, and email attachments between and among diverse applications. The current invention provides, for example, for the sharing of compressed, encrypted files between computers which may have already installed Microsoft Outlook and other computers which may have installed only Lotus Notes. The .ZIP format is a widely used container of compressed, encrypted and signed archives. The .ZIP format was developed and is maintained by the assignee of the present invention.

Claims 1, 12 and 24 are amended to emphasize the system and method comprising an software utility program that is integrated into an existing file management application program, an existing web browser application program, or an existing email application program that are already installed on a user's computer or accessible over the Internet.

In addition, the Montville reference does not teach or suggest a system having a file manager for opening, viewing and modifying archive files and data object files, extracting and

adding data to archive files and data object files, and creating new archive files and data object files as claimed in claim 1.

The Montville reference does not teach or suggest a software utility program integrated into a file management application program for managing and manipulating archive files within the file management application program environment. The invention of the Montville reference is very different from the present invention and is not designed to be implemented into a file management application program.

Applicant believes that amended independent claims 1, 12 and 24 contain patentable subject matter and are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-9, 11 and 19-23 are dependent claims that dependent upon independent claim 1, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements they contain. Claims 13-18 are dependent claims that dependent upon independent claim 12, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements they contain. Claim 25 is a dependent claim that is dependent upon independent claim 24, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements it contains. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn in light of the above amendments and remarks.

New claim 26 is included to further define the invention and recite elements not in the original set of claims. In particular, claim 26 recites an Internet plug-in module integrated into an existing Internet browser installed on a computer for managing and manipulating archive files downloaded from the Internet. Clearly, the Montville et al. reference does not teach or suggest a

software utility program that includes a callable program module that integrates into existing web browser application programs for managing, manipulating, compressing, extracting, authenticating, encrypting and decrypting archive files downloaded from the Internet. Applicant believes that new claim 26 contains patentable subject matter and is in condition for allowance.

New claims 27-30 are added to further define the invention and recite elements not in the original set of claims. In particular, claims 27-30 recite that the software utility program or callable program module facilitates the use of files, archives and email attachments between and among diverse application programs. This means that the present invention may be used to compress, extract, authenticate, encrypt and decrypt files, archives and email attachments between and among various application programs, such as Microsoft Windows Explorer, Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Word, Lotus Notes, etc. The present invention works with various commonly available software programs.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, the Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims. No new matter has been added to the application. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in the event a telephone conference would be helpful in advancing the application towards allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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